position of Jute, protection of interests of persons engaged in jute industry and production of raw jute, need for continued maintenance of jute industry etc. Considering the above factors, as well as the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government decided to provide even higher protection to the Jute Sector than that was recommended by the SAC.

Subsidy to units exporting handloom products

3230. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide subsidy to units exporting handloom products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing various schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the handloom expoting units for promoting exports. The Schemes include Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Market Development Assistance (MDA), Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI), Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB), Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Focus Market Scheme (FMS) etc.

Export of readymade garments

3231. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of readymade garments is not likely to achieve the target this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to increase the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) As per trends discemible from available exports statistics, exports of readymade garments is unlikely to achieve the targets of US$ 12065 million set for the Financial Year 2007-08.

(b) the shortfall in reaching the targets is being attributed by the apparel industry to the steep and consistent appreciation of the Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar. In addition, the US market which accounts for 35% of Indian garment exports, has been sluggish since the beginning of 2007.

(c) Government has taken several measures to strengthen the textiles industry, which will also have a positive impact on the exports of textiles and clothing. These measures are as follow:—

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector. TUFS has been extended to cover the XI five year Plan period. For the speedy modernisation of the textiles processing sector, Government introduced, w.e.f. 20.4.2005, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.